

Question for written answer E-001784/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Supporting tourism professionals affected by the sanctions against Russia

The package of economic sanctions imposed by the EU against Russia has caused market disruptions that have affected many companies, especially those with business ties to Russia.

The sanctions will have a major impact on the tourism sector in particular, which has already been hit hard by the pandemic. For at least 30 years, Russians have been among the top visitors to Italy, with a much higher spending capacity than other tourists. From 2009 to 2014, the number of Russian tourists staying in Italy increased from 3.5 million to 8 million, while the amount they spent increased from EUR 600 million to around EUR 1.3 billion.

The sanctions are, of course, necessary but the EU needs to take a balanced approach and look out for sectors at risk. The situation of sectors such as tourism should therefore be carefully assessed and adequate economic resources should be allocated to offer them tangible economic support at such a difficult time.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Whether it will create a specific line in the current budget to support tourism professionals affected by the repercussions of these sanctions?
2. What other measures such as tax breaks and exemptions it could take, together with the Member States, to foster the economic recovery of the sector?